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user cannot see the display 13 and, of course, cannot read the displayed message.

The photosensor 152 is provided for detecting a change of environment condition of the receiver. Namely, when the environment is changed from a dark condition, in which the user cannot read a displayed message, to a light condition in which the user can read the message, the CPU 6 detects the change by the photosensor 152.

Next, reference will be also be made to FIG. 4 for describing the operation of the embodiment.

The user carrying the paging receiver turns on the power source by operating the power switch implemented by the switch sensor 14. Then the paging receiver shifts into a waiting state for receiving radio signal.

Upon detection by the photosensor 152 of a change from a dark condition to a light condition (step S1), and if an unconfirmed message exists (step S2), the CPU 6 outputs an alert signal to the alert driver 12. In response to the alert signal, the alert driver 12 drives at least one of an alerting device, i.e., the LED 9, the speaker 10 and the vibrator 11 for informing the user of the existence of an unconfirmed message (step S4) which now can be read because the display environment is in the light condition. The user stops the alert by pressing the alert reset switch 141 and carries out the reading operation for reading out the unconfirmed message from the RAM 5. Namely, the user opens the lid 18 and operates the keyboard 19 to display the unconfirmed message.

On the other side, an FSK (Frequency Shift Keying) modulated wave coming in through the antenna 1 is received and demodulated by the receiving section 2, decoded by the decoder 3 and then applied to the 1-chip microcomputer 8 and alert driver 12 (step S3).

As the decoder 3 determines that the received call is meant for the paging receiver, the 1-chip microcomputer 8 executes an alerting procedure by determining that a call meant for the paging receiver has been received (step S4). Namely, when the decoder 3 detects that an address included in the received call is coincident with an address stored in the decoder 3, the received call is processed as a call meant for the receiver. Then, a received message following the received address is processed by the CPU 6. When the CPU 6 is interrupted by the alert reset switch 141 during the alerting procedure (step S5), the alert stops (step S6).

Next, the CPU 6 determines by the photosensor 151 whether the message display environment is light or dark (step S7). If the environment is dark in step S7, the received message is stored in the RAM 5 under the control of the CPU 6 as an unconfirmed message having not been confirmed (step S11).

If the environment is light in step S7, a procedure for reading out the receiving message is executed and the received message is displayed (step S8).

After the received message has been read out, it is stored in the RAM 5 as a confirmed message (step S9). Thereafter, the program returns to the message waiting state.

If the CPU 6 is not interrupted during the alerting procedure (the alerting is continued for a predetermined time period) in step S5, the CPU 6 automatically ends the alerting procedure (step S10), stores the received message as an unconfirmed message (step S11), and then awaits another message.

Although the present invention has been fully described by way of a preferred embodiment thereof with reference to the accompanying drawings, various changes and modifi-

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cations will be apparent to those having skill in this field. Therefore, unless these changes and modifications otherwise depart from the scope of the present invention, they should be construed as included therein.

What is claimed is:

1. A radio paging receiver comprising:

receiving means for receiving a radio signal containing a message signal;

first light/dark detecting means for detecting whether a message display environment is light or dark;

alert control means for generating an alert signal when the receiver is paged by a received radio signal;

alerting means, responsive to the alert signal, for generating an alert for a user of the receiver;

alert stopping means for stopping an alert generated by the alerting means, when an alert stopping operation is executed by the user during the alert; and

message storing means for storing, if said light/dark detecting means detects a dark condition when the alert stopping operation executed, the received message in a memory as an unconfirmed message having not been confirmed by the user.

2. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first light/dark detecting means comprises a photosensor.

3. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 2, further comprising a lid for covering the photosensor and a display.

4. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 3, further comprising second light/dark detecting means for detecting whether a environment of the receiver is light or dark.

5. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 4, wherein said alerting means generates the alert when said second light/dark detecting means detects a change of the environment from the dark condition to a light condition, if the unconfirmed message is stored in the memory.

6. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 5, wherein said second light/dark detecting means comprises a photosensor which is not covered by said lid.

7. A radio paging receiver comprising:

alerting means for reporting the presence of a received message;

message distinguishing means for determining whether a received message has been confirmed by an operation of an user of the receiver;

light/dark detecting means for determining whether a message display environment is light or dark; and

message storing means for storing, if said light/dark detecting means detects a dark condition when the operation for confirming the received message is executed, the received message in a memory as an unconfirmed message having not been confirmed.

8. The radio paging receiver as claimed in claim 7, wherein said alerting means executes an alert operation when said light/dark detecting means detects a change of the environment from the dark condition to a light condition, if the unconfirmed message is stored in the memory.

9. A method for controlling a radio paging receiver, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving a message to be displayed at the receiver;

(b) alerting an user of the receiver of said receiving;

(c) detecting an operation for stopping said alerting;

(d) detecting whether a message display environment is light or dark at the time of execution of step (c);

(e) displaying the received message if a light condition is detected in step (d); and